

WELCOME TO THE



THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
OF OKLAHOMA
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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GENERAL SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Thursday, February 5, 2026

7:30-8:30 am	Registration Registration Desk	Breakfast with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326
8:30-9:45 am	Welcome and Opening Plenary Session: Teaching Oklahoma’s Environmental History with Dr. Matthew Pearce, Oklahoma State Historian Ballroom AB	
10:45-11:00 am	Coffee Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
11:45am-12:00 pm	Coffee Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch, Sponsored by Oklahoma Envirothon Ballroom AB	
1:00-1:15 pm	Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
2:15-2:30 pm	Coffee Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
2:45-4:15 pm	UCO Sustainability Tour Registration Desk	
4:30-4:45 pm	Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
4:45-5:00 pm	Closing Plenary with Door Prizes! Ballroom AB	
6:30-8:30 pm	TrivEEa American Solera, Edmond	

GENERAL SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:30-8:30am	Registration Registration Desk	Breakfast with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326
7:45-8:15 am	Tree Walk Registration Desk	
9:45-11:15am	UCO Sustainability Tour Registration Desk	
11:30am-11:45am	Coffee Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
11:45am-12:00pm	Plenary Session: The State of OKAEE Ballroom AB	
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch Ballroom AB	
1:00-1:15pm	Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
1:15-2:15pm	Plenary Session: Environmental Education Today, and Where We're Driving Next; A Panel Discussion Facilitated by Dr. Matthew Pearce, Oklahoma State Historian Ballroom AB	
2:15-2:30pm	Coffee Break with Exhibitors Heritage Room 326	
2:30-4:00pm	A Quiet JournEE: A Self-Guided Nature Journaling Room 202	Plenary Session: World Café; Shaping the Future of Oklahoma's Environmental Education Highway, Together Ballroom AB
4:00-4:30pm	Closing Plenary with Door Prizes! Ballroom AB	
6:30-9:00pm	Kara-OKAEE Cookie's on Western, Oklahoma City	

EARLY CHILDHOOD BREAKOUT SESSIONS I



THURSDAY

Nurturing Young Scientists:

Student-Led STEM Learning in Global Gardens

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Carl Albert 300
- Speakers: Mary Smith and Ashley Ivanoff

Trees & Me:

Branching Out Early Learning Through Nature Play

- Thursday February 5th | 2:30 -4:30 PM | Henry Bellmon 314
- Speakers: Tammy Coffee and Rebecca Rester

A Woven JournEE to the Past, Present, & Future

- Thursday February 5th | 2:45 - 4:15 PM | Carl Albert 300
- Speakers: Charlotte Wood-Wilson and Laura Wilhelm

FRIDAY

Rooted in Play: Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Today, and Imagining Tomorrow for PreK-3 Learners

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Ballroom A/B
- Speaker: Yvonne Rossiter

Let's Get This Paw-ty Started:

Growing Up WILD for Young Learners

- Friday February 6th | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Mary Fallin 304
- Speakers: Tammy Coffee and Rebecca Rester

Little Learners, Big Science

- Friday February 6th | 9:45 - 11:15 AM | Ballroom A/B
- Speaker: Yvonne Rossiter





ELEMENTARY BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

THURSDAY

Back From the Future: Let's Unplug for Nature

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Room 108
- Speakers: Kimberli Watson and Patrick Hayes

The Oklahoma 4H2O Water Fair

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Mary Fallin 304
- Speakers: Kelly Wardlaw

From Curiosity to Action:

Empowering Students Through Environmental Inquiry

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Carl Albert 300
- Speaker: Sara Ivey

Innovative Environmental Education:

Inspiring Curiosity Through Adaptable Methods

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Mary Fallin 304
- Speaker: Darby Hillemeier and Brooklyn Castaneda

Lightning Talks A:

- Thursday February 5th | 1:15 - 2:15 PM | Mary Fallin 304
1. **H2Oklahoma - Making a Splash for Statewide Water Education**
 - Speaker: Jack Hilgert
 2. **Making Tracks: OKC Zoo's Educational Program for Third Grade Students**
 - Speaker: Daniella Biffi
 3. **Seeing to Know: Drawing, Nature Journaling, and the Return of Close Observation to Science Education**
 - Speaker: Kasey Jones

Where Learning Meets the Land: The Next Decade of Outdoor Education in Oklahoma

- Thursday February 5th | 2:30 - 4:30 PM | Room 320B
- Speakers: Brian Bovaird, Amanda Fisher and Zoe Hale





ELEMENTARY BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

FRIDAY

O Christmas Tree: Sewing with Parabolic Curves

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Carl Albert 300
- Speaker: Debra Wood

Since We haven't Saved the Earth, It might Just be Up to Our Kids

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Room 320C
- Speaker: Cheryl Cheadle

Grant-writing for educators; lessons learned (including some the hard way)

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Room 201
- Speaker: Kenda Kirby

OK...So You want to do EE?

Your 45-minute Help Desk & Open Space JournEE

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Henry Bellmon 314
- Speakers: Aryn Hardman and Jack Hilgert
-

I See a Tree!: Deepening Observation, Reflection, and Content Mastery Through Nature Journaling in the Classroom

- Friday February 6th | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Carl Albert 300
- Speakers: Kaitlin Bacon and Joel Bacon



MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKOUT SESSIONS



THURSDAY

Designing Pollinator Gardens

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Henry Bellmon 314
- Speakers: Tara Barker and Doug Weirick

Rivers and Population in Oklahoma -

What is the Connection

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Henry Bellmon 314
- Speaker: Amy Williams

Then, Now, and WOW! Oklahoma's Keystone Species

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | RM 201
- Speakers: Bree Dunham, Jennifer Randell, Kristy Wicker

Riding the Earth Systems Current: Project WET's Newest Guide for Middle School Classrooms

- Thursday February 5th | 2:30 - 4:30 PM | Mary Fallin 304
- Speaker: Hunter Hodson and Candice Miller

FRIDAY

Solar Energy for All Times

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Mary Fallin 304
- Speaker: Tara Barker and Doug Weirick

Echos of the Past, Blueprints for Resilience

- Friday February 6th | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Henry Bellmon 314
- Speakers: Abby Randall and T Larson



HIGH SCHOOL BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

THURSDAY

Connecting the Nature of Science to Environmental Education

- Thursday February 5th | 10:15 - 11:45 AM | Clara Luper 312
- Speaker: Staci Thomas

Adaptable Teaching Tools for Biology & Environmental Education: A Systems Approach

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Robert S Kerr 301
- Speaker: Cheyanne Olson

Lightning Talks B:

- Thursday February 5th | 1:15 - 2:15 PM | Ballroom A/B

1. Envirothon 101

- Speaker: Nicole Colston, Caroline Jones and Alex Gonzales

2. Green Team as an Honor Society

- Speaker: Melissa Lau

3. Know Your Well: Community Science in Your Classroom

- Speaker: Nicole Colston

Climate Change Story Shorts

- Thursday February 5th | 2:30 - 4:30 PM | Ballroom A/B
- Speaker: Melissa Lau

Teaching Environmental Justice in Oklahoma

- Thursday February 5th | 2:30 - 4:30 PM | Robert S Kerr 301
- Speakers: Abby Randall, T Larson, Natalie Evans

From Curiosity to Discovery:

Exploring the Outdoors with PocketLab

- Thursday February 5th | 2:45 - 4:15 PM | Room 320C
- Speakers: Amber Smith and Teresa Randall





HIGH SCHOOL BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

FRIDAY

Guiding the Future: Our Pathway to Recruit and Support Environmental Geoscience Majors

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Room 202
- Speakers: Brandon Spencer and Tracy Quan

Field Methods Experiences for Environmental Geoscience Majors at OSU

- Friday February 6th | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Room 202
- Speakers: Brandon Spencer and Tracy Quan

Envirothon in Action: A Hands-On Preview

- Friday February 6th | 9:45 - 11:15 AM | Room 320C
- Speakers: Nicole Colston, Patrick Hayes, Caroline Jones, Alex Gonzales and Savannah Stephens



NON-FORMAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

THURSDAY



Mapping the Path: A 45-Minute JournEE Through Oklahoma Environmental Education History

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Room 201
- Speakers: Laura Wilhelm, Luann Waters, Cheryl Cheadle, Marci Hawkins, Tom Creider

The Intertwining of Museums and Environmental Programs, Events, and Exhibitions

- Thursday February 5th | 10-10:45 AM | Ballroom A/B
- Speakers: Nathan Turner, Amy Stephens and Julia Moser

How Questions, Talk Moves, and Phenomena Drive Sensemaking in Any Grade

- Thursday February 5th | 10:15 - 11:45 AM | Room 320B
- Speaker: Lisa Sizelove

JournEE to Impact: Using Evidence to Strengthen Your EE Field Trip Programs

- Thursday February 5th | 10:15 - 11:45 AM | Room 320C
- Speakers: Tony Pascall and Jack Hilgert

Building Connections: Teens Exploring Nature Together for Environmental Awareness

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Ballroom A/B
- Speakers: Dusti McCartney and Travis Monroe

Leave No Trace: Inside and Outside the Classroom

- Thursday February 5th | 11:00 - 11:45 AM | Room 108
- Speaker: Patrick Hayes



NON-FORMAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

THURSDAY



Lightning Talks C:

- Thursday February 5th | 1:15 - 2:15 PM | Robert S Kerr 301
- 1. **BioBlitz: Learning Through Nature**
 - Speaker: Ariel Gillen
- 2. **Take-Home Nature: Oklahoma Forestry Library Backpack Program**
 - Speaker: Tony Pascall
- 3. **US Earth Science Olympiad: A National Pathway for Earth Science Students, Right Here in Oklahoma**
 - Speaker: Chelsea Brunner-Bourne

Lightning Talks D:

- Thursday February 5th | 1:15 - 2:15 PM | Carl Albert 300
- 1. **From 2020 to 2026: Key Shifts in Oklahoma's Science Standards**
 - Speaker: Lisa Sizelove
- 2. **Unlocking the Oklahoma Science Framework: What It Is and How to Use It**
 - Speaker: Lisa Sizelove and Yvonne Rossiter
- 3. **Words matter: Empathetic interpretation can increase children's positive perceptions of a disliked insect**
 - Speaker: Dr. Emily Geest

Incorporating a “Sense of Place” to Enhance Programming

- Thursday February 5th | 2:45 - 4:15 PM | Room 108
- Speakers: Torie Thompson and Tom Creider

Setting the Standard: Your Standards JournEE to High-Quality K-12 Environmental Education

- Thursday February 5th | 2:45 - 4:15 PM | Clara Luper 312
- Speakers: Lisa Sizelove and Jack Hilgertakc





NON-FORMAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS III

FRIDAY

Exploring Nocturnal Nature through STEM and Storytelling

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Clara Luper 312 Speaker: Miranda Adams

Field Trips, Partnerships, and Paperwork: Navigating School-Community Collaborations

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Robert S Kerr 301
- Speaker: Heather Johnston

Never The Same (Student-Led)

- Friday February 6th | 8:30 - 9:15 AM | Room 320B
- Speaker: Micah Greco

Teaching is for the birds! - Oklahoma Ornithological Society

- Friday February 6th | 9:45 - 11:15 AM | Robert S Kerr 301
- Speaker: Rebecca Renfro

The Art of Teaching:

Classroom Management Skills for your Toolkit

- Friday February 6th | 9:45 - 11:15 AM | Clara Luper 312
- Speaker: Tony Pascall



Thank You Sponsors!

2026 Oklahoma
Environmental Education (EE) Expo

“Catoosa Blue Whale” Sponsors

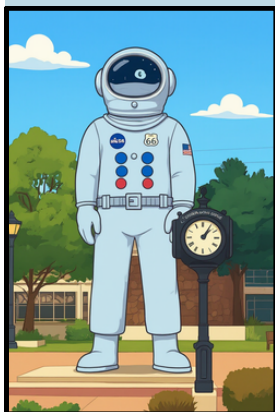


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9/23 - Community Engagement



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Teaching Climate Science: Practical Strategies for Engaging Classrooms

Friday, July 31, 2026

at the National Weather Center
in Norman, Oklahoma



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2027 Oklahoma
Environmental
Education Expo

February 4-5, 2027

**Contact
Information**

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